

# RESEARCH INSIGHTS IN ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING

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Editors:

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	V
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CHAPTER 1: .....	1
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### **Minimising Students' Communication Apprehension: The Application of Groupwork Learning Strategy in English Classrooms**

INTRODUCTION .....	1
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	2
PROBLEM STATEMENT.....	5
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES .....	5
METHODOLOGY .....	6
FINDINGS.....	8
DISCUSSION .....	13
CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH .....	14
REFERENCES.....	16
APPENDIX A .....	19
APPENDIX B .....	21

CHAPTER 2: .....	23
------------------	----

### **Communication Anxiety Among Pre-University Students**

INTRODUCTION .....	24
PROBLEM STATEMENT.....	25
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.....	25
METHODOLOGY .....	26
FINDINGS.....	28
DISCUSSION.....	32
CONCLUSION.....	33
REFERENCES.....	34

CHAPTER 3: .....	37
------------------	----

### **An Analysis of Online English Language Learning Forum**

INTRODUCTION .....	37
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	38
METHODOLOGY .....	41
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION.....	41
DISCUSSION.....	46
CONCLUSION.....	47
REFERENCES.....	48

<b>CHAPTER 4:</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>The Effects of Oral Communication Strategy Training on ESL Learners' Oral Proficiency</b>	
INTRODUCTION .....	49
RESEARCH OBJECTIVE .....	51
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	51
METHODOLOGY .....	54
FINDINGS.....	58
CONCLUSION.....	64
REFERENCES.....	66
 <b>CHAPTER 5:</b>	 <b>71</b>
<b>Responses to Extensive Reading: A Survey of ESL Learners</b>	
INTRODUCTION .....	71
BACKGROUND.....	73
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.....	74
METHODOLOGY .....	75
FINDINGS.....	76
DISCUSSION .....	81
CONCLUSION.....	84
REFERENCES.....	85
 <b>CHAPTER 6:</b>	 <b>89</b>
<b>The Use of Metacognitive Strategies in Listening</b>	
INTRODUCTION .....	89
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	91
METHODOLOGY .....	94
RESULTS.....	95
DISCUSSION.....	98
CONCLUSION.....	100
REFERENCES.....	102
 <b>CHAPTER 7:</b>	 <b>105</b>
<b>Managing English for Academic Writing Using Learning Management System</b>	
INTRODUCTION .....	105
LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS) .....	107
BACKGROUND.....	108
PROBLEM STATEMENT .....	109
RESEARCH OBJECTIVE .....	110
METHODOLOGY .....	110
FINDINGS .....	111
DISCUSSION.....	111
CONCLUSION .....	118
REFERENCES.....	119

CHAPTER 8:..... 121

**Teaching English in Multicultural Classrooms**

INTRODUCTION ..... 121  
PROBLEM STATEMENT..... 122  
RESEARCH OBJECTIVE ..... 123  
LITERATURE REVIEW ..... 123  
METHODOLOGY ..... 125  
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION ..... 126  
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS..... 136  
REFERENCES..... 138

CHAPTER 9:..... 141

**Task Based Learning: From Theory to Practice**

INTRODUCTION ..... 141  
TASK BASED LEARNING..... 142  
PROBLEM STATEMENT..... 145  
RESEARCH OBJECTIVE ..... 146  
METHODOLOGY ..... 147  
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION..... 151  
CONCLUSION..... 154  
REFERENCES..... 156

CHAPTER 10: ..... 159

**Incorporating Field Trip Activities in EOP**

INTRODUCTION ..... 159  
RESEARCH OBJECTIVE ..... 164  
RESEARCH QUESTIONS..... 165  
METHODOLOGY ..... 165  
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION..... 166  
CONCLUSION..... 170  
REFERENCES ..... 171

CONTRIBUTORS ..... 175

INDEX ..... 179

## CHAPTER 10:

# Incorporating Field Trip Activities in EOP

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*Soft skills have been identified as one of the most critical skills in the current global job market. Institutions of higher learning have been proactive in incorporating soft skills modules in their academic programmes. However, very few courses have incorporated field trips in enhancing students' soft skills. The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of field trip activity in enhancing students' self confidence and problem solving skills. A quantitative method based on a 20-item questionnaire was administered to 220 undergraduates. The results revealed a positive perception toward the field trip activity in terms of enhanced self-confidence and problem-solving skills. The students also perceived the activity as beneficial in helping them to prepare for the working environment.*

**Keywords:** English for Occupational Purposes (EOP), soft skills, employability, field trip

## INTRODUCTION

In a knowledge-based economy, Malaysian graduates must bring more than technical knowledge to the job. An increasing number of employers are searching for graduates who obtain good academic achievement and possess 'soft skills' such as communication skills, problem solving skills, interpersonal skills and the ability to be flexible in any given situation (Nurita, Shaharudin and Ainon, 2004). These 'soft skills' (also known as employability skills) are necessary in almost every job (Lawrence, 2002). Soft skills are identified to be the most critical skills in the current